

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet includes changes to Figs. 2 and 3. This sheet, which includes Figs. 2 and 3, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 2 and 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Summary of the Action:

- The drawings were objected to for various informalities.
- Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
- Claims 17-18 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barea (EP-0489307).
- Claims 19-20 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barea (EP-0489307).
- Claims 29 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barea (EP-0489307) in view of Memminger et al. (US-4953367).
- Claim 30 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Drawings

The Examiner is requested to approve the accompanying replacement drawings. The changes to the drawings are to:

- (1) Amend Figure 2 to correct a typo in reference numeral 47 (it was typed as "67") (*Please see page 11, lines 17-20: "The control unit 43 has an input 47 that is connected to the data bus 32."*), and
- (2) Label with numerical references the unnumbered elements of Figure 3, i.e., elements 4, 11, 35, 36 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, and 55. (*Please see page 14, second full paragraph: "FIG. 3 shows a further modified embodiment of the yarn feeder 11. The deviation resides in the detection of the rpm of the motor... Otherwise, the above functional description [Fig. 2] also applies."*)

As noted by the references to the specification above, no new matter is added by these typographical corrections.

Amendments

Claim 24 is amended herein to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. In particular, claim 24 as previously presented apparently contained a typographical error, in that the word "form" was mistyped as "from." The claim has been amended to correct this typographical error.

Claim 29 is amended to be consistent with claim 17.

No new matter is added.

It is respectfully submitted that the claim is now in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Comments

Regarding the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, applicants submit the following comments. Claims 17 and 29 are independent, and these remarks will focus primarily on those claims.

Claim 17

In overview, claim 17 recites the following limitations for a method of operating yarn feeders for feeding yarns to a textile machine:

- operating the yarn feeders in a tension-regulated mode in a trial phase
- detecting the feeding parameters (yarn speed and yarn quantity fed) of the yarn feeders in the tension-regulated mode
- from the detected yarn feeding parameters, determining an operational yarn feeding parameter and
- operating the yarn feeders in an operating phase according to the operational yarn feeding parameter.

It can be seen that the method entails (1) a Tension-Regulated Trial Phase, during which operational yarn feeding parameters are derived, and (2) a subsequent Operational Phase during which the derived operational yarn feeding parameters are used.

It is noted that the invention of Barea, while pertaining to a two step process involving yarn products, is vastly different. Barea describes a first stage of producing an idealized, i.e., flawless, master product. Data relating to the yarn quantity and other machine data are stored during this stage. During a second stage, i.e., a production stage, the same parameters are compared to the

stored parameters and the yarn delivery adjusted accordingly. Thus, in Barea, the operation of the machine is adjusted to mimic the operation during the idealized stage.

In contrast, it will be appreciated that the product produced during the trial phase of the present invention is not an idealized product, but is a trial product, i.e., a disposable item used to try different parameters. Thus, the trial product may be quite irregular, and there is no attempt or desire to match the operation of the machine to that product.

Referring to the specific claim limitations, it can be seen that claim 17 expressly recites a tension-regulated mode used during a trial phase. As per the present specification, a tension-regulated mode is a mode wherein tension is maintained at a certain value. *See* page 15, lines 5-10. It is not seen where Barea teaches a tension controlled trial phase, and indeed it appears that the first stage of Barea is not tension-regulated. *See* Barea at 4:47-65. Indeed, the yarn *speed* is measured in Barea, not the yarn tension, and the Action itself notes at page 6 that Barea is silent as to yarn tension regulation.

Claim 29

In overview, claim 29 recites the following limitations for a yarn feeding system for feeding a plurality of yarns to a textile machine:

- a number of yarn feeders, each having a yarn tension sensor, a drive motor with a yarn feed wheel, a yarn tension regulator, and a yarn speed regulator
- a central control for communicating with the yarn feeders, the central control being configured to:
 - (during a tension-regulated trial phase) receive signals indicative of yarn speed and/or yarn quantity, and
 - (during an operating phase) send a control signal to the yarn feeders indicating yarn speed and/or yarn quantity for controlling operations of the yarn feeders.

With respect to the element of a yarn tension regulator, the Action asserts at page 6 that it would be obvious to modify the system of Barea to include the yarn tension regulator of Memminger "to regulate the tension during the trial phase producing a first quality product." However, there are at least three significant problems with this rationale: (1) it begs the very question it seeks to answer

(Why regulate tension? In order to regulate tension.) (2) there is no indication in Barea that regulating tension would cause production of a quality product and indeed, Barea states that it produces a flawless product *without* tension regulation, and (3) Memminger *does not* employ tension regulation during a trial phase, and indeed does not appear to entail two separate stages at all.

In addition, the comments above regarding the distinction of claim 17 over Barea apply equally to claim 29 as amended.

Claim 30

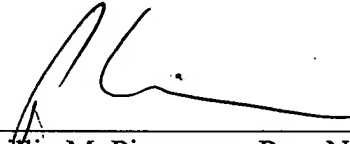
Claim 30 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be patentable. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter, but respectfully submit pursuant to these amendments and remarks that the parent claim is patentable as well.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that Barea and Memminger do not teach each element of pending claim 17 or 29, and that the combination of these references would not have been obvious, and in fact is belied by the references themselves. Thus, favorable reconsideration of claims 17 and 29, and dependent claims 1-28 and 30-32, is requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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ANNOTATED SHEET

